



NEWSLETTER HOUSTON ARCHEOLOGICAL SOCIETY

NUMBER 67

AUGUST 1980

RECAP OF THE ACTIVITIES OF THE H.A.S. DURING THE LAST YEAR

Excavation - Pierkert Site

March through October, 1979, excavations were undertaken at the Piekert site, 41 WH 14. Eleven burials and large amounts of lithic and faunal material were salvaged from this endangered site.

Laboratory

Laboratory work was initiated on the Piekert material soon after excavations began, but regular scheduled sessions were not instituted until November, 1979. Meetings are now held every other Sunday at 2:00 pm in Room 376 of the Hoffman (C&O) Building on the U. of H. campus.

Site Testing - Trinity River

August, 1979 H.A.S. members assisted Archeologist Anne Fox of the Center for Archaeological Research in San Antonio and her crew in testing in the vicinity of the probable site of the presidio San Augustin de Ahumada. Coring, test pitting, and magnetometer testing were done in an attempt to locate remains of the boat of Joseph Blancpain, a French trader who is reported to have occupied the site before the presidio was established. Some information regarding the early shore line of the lake was generated and a Spanish belt buckle was found, but no new data regarding the French occupation was forthcoming.

Excavation - Barnhill Site

Late Fall of 1979 and March 8-9 and 22, 1980, excavation of a burial exposed by land owner, Barnhill, was done and the surrounding area was surveyed and test pits were made to determine the extent of the site. This appears to be a very large site or series of sites, in an excellent state of preservation.

Continued on Page 2

Mapping - Wharton County

In addition to the mapping associated with the two excavated sites near Hungerford, another site, that of the suspected site of Fort San Bernard was also mapped. The material picked up on the surface of this site is being processed by an H.A.S member.

Excavation - White Oak Bayou

Spring, 1980, members of the H.A.S. assisted Bill McClure, of the Highway Dept. in the excavation of a probable bison skeleton (missing only the head, tail, and one femur). Two projectile points were found by McClure in association with the faunal remains. No additional cultural material was located.

Survey - Colorado County

April 1980, members of the H.A.S. surveyed land on both sides of a watercourse in the Colorado River drainage at the request of land owners, Anderson and Lucy Todd. Six sites were located and reported to the Texas Archeological Research Laboratory in Austin.

Site Testing - Wharton County

May 26, 1980, members of the H.A.S. tested an area where Late Paleoindian and Late Archaic remains had been found. Initial testing suggests that this site saw occupation well into the Late Prehistoric period.

Survey - The Woodlands

Late June, 1980, a small group of H.A.S. members assisted Dr. Robert Schacht of Rice University in surveying and testing specific blocks of land in the Woodlands, Montgomery County. No sites were found to be endangered by the proposed projects (parks and jogging path) of the Mitchell Development Corporation.

Museum Display - Wharton

Members of the H.A.S. designed and installed the prehistoric exhibit of the new Wharton County Historical Museum using photographs and artifacts from Wharton County as the base for the display which relates the history of the Indian occupation of Wharton County as known from recent archeological investigations initiated by land owner and H.A.S. member, Joe Hudgins. The Museum is scheduled to open Aug. 15, 1980 according to Director, Eve Bartlett.

Library Research - Rosenberg Library

July 1980, Bernard and Selma Naman initiated archival research to locate the site of the French settlement, Champ d'Asile near Liberty, Texas. The H.A.S plans to include regular archival research as part of their activities. Previous work of this type by Lou Fullen, Dick Gregg and others has greatly enhanced archeological work in this area by both professional and amateur groups.

Guest Speakers for the Year

September Meeting - No speaker was planned for this meeting in which the new officers were elected: Texas Anderson, Chairman; Jean McGinty, Sec/Treasurer; Dick Gregg, Bill McClure, and Sheldon Kindall, Directors. Kindall has been the field director this year and Gregg, David Atherton, and Dr. Ken Brown have been in charge of laboratory work. Mike Johnson continues to be our Head (and only) Librarian.

October Meeting - Dr. Frank Hole, Professor of Anthropology at Rice University, spoke on "Archeological Investigations at the Vistron Petrochemical Complex in Calhoun County".

November Meeting - Dr. Robert Schacht, Research Associate at Rice, spoke on "Beyond Description in Archeology: How to See the Forest Without Getting Lost in the Trees".

December Meeting - Dr. Don Lewis of Shell Development Laboratory (now at the University of Texas in San Antonio) showed slides and discussed plans for facilities at UTSA to deal with Chemical Analyses of archeological remains. A farewell party for Don and Evelyn, both long-time H.A.S. members, was held after the meeting at the Chairman's home.

January Meeting - Lou Fullen, H.A.S. member and Adjunct Professor at the University of Houston, Clear Lake, gave a talk on "Outdoor Education in Anthropology: The Early Americans of Galveston Bay".

February Meeting - Dr. Alan Skinner, formerly with the Anthropology Department of SMU and now self-employed in contract archeology, addressed the society on the subject of "Central Texas Archeology for Amateur Archeologists".

March Meeting - Dr. Gentry Steele, Physical Anthropologist at Texas A&M University, discussed "Techniques in Zooarcheology: With Examples from a Roman Farmsite".

April Meeting - Dr. John Coffman, Economic Geologists at the University of Houston, spoke on "The Early Anglo Settlers of Texas".

May Meeting - Carolyn Good, District Archeologist for the Galveston Corps of Engineers, discussed "The Corps' Policies in Regard to Cultural Resources and Effective Ways for Working with the Corps."

June Meeting was not held because so many H.A.S. members were involved in the annual field school of the Texas Archeological Society, held this year in Brown County on the Eubank Ranch. Over half a dozen H.A.S. members were supervisors and crew chiefs of this year's field school. We feel fortunate to have such experienced and qualified archeologists in our society.

July Meeting - Slides of the field school and a discussion of the activities were held in lieu of a regular talk.

August Meeting - Dr. Harry Shafer, Professor of Anthropology at Texas A&M, discussed this summer's excavations in "The Mimbres Valley, New Mexico". The nominating committee announced their slate of candidates for the coming year: Texas Anderson, Chairman; Suzanne Wilson, Sec/Treasurer; Directors, Dick Gregg, Bill McClure, and Sheldon Kindall.

Innovations

The society voted this year to change their fiscal year from June to June to from January to January so the officers could remember when to pay their dues.

The H.A.S. was able to expand their Newsletter from ca. 12 pages an issue to 40 pages per issue thanks to generous contributions from Mel Anderson Communications (\$100), Wm. Hand and Associates (\$100), R.J. Simon Development (\$100), and Dudley R. Dobie, Jr (\$50).

Membership

As of August 1980 H.A.S. membership had grown to 164 active members.

Report Submitted by McGinty, Kindall, and Anderson
August 1980

PUBLICATION NOTICE

Houston Archeological Society Report No. 3 entitled "The Owen Site, 41HR315: A Long Occupation Sequence in Harris County, Texas" by L. W. Patterson is now available. This represents the longest occupation sequence excavated to-date on the upper Texas Coast, spanning a time period of Late Paleo to Late Prehistoric. Plainview is the earliest projectile point type. Data is presented on the introduction and further technological development of the bow and arrow. The price of this report is \$5.00 postpaid, and is available from John Herbert, 5935 Dellfern, Houston, Texas 77035.

A NEW LAW FOR THE PROTECTION OF HISTORIC RESOURCES

by Margie Chaffin-Lohse

Less than a year has passed since the Archeological Resources Protection Act of 1979 (Public Law 96-95) became law. Sponsors of the act anticipate that it will replace the Antiquities Act of 1906 as the cornerstone of federal legislation aimed toward the protection of the nation's historic resources.* This paper will compare the major provisions of the two laws and will discuss the events which led to the need for the new one. Finally, it will consider some of the effects we may expect of the 1979 act.

The Antiquities Act of 1906 was the first federal legislation aimed toward general preservation of historic resources. The law provided that historic and prehistoric ruins and monuments and objects of antiquity found on government-owned or -controlled land could not be appropriated, excavated, injured, or destroyed without government permission. Violators of this provision could be fined up to \$500 and/or sentenced to prison terms up to ninety days. Another provision authorized the President to designate national monuments on federal lands where significant historic landmarks, historic and prehistoric structures, or other objects of historic or scientific interest were located.

The 1906 act was significant for several reasons. It took most of the responsibility for the federal program of preservation out of the hands of Congress and placed it in the Executive Branch. This was an important step in the establishment of an effective program of historic preservation. Earlier actions had been handled on a case by case basis in the legislature, a slow process under the best circumstances.

The concept of limiting protection solely to federally-owned lands was reaffirmed by the Antiquities Act of 1906. No mechanism for protecting sites located on private lands existed before 1906, and neither the provisions of the Antiquities Act nor subsequent acts significantly broadened this concept.**

Archeologists and historians for many years relied on the Antiquities Act as the legal basis for protecting historic resources. Although additional federal legislation regulating historic resources has been passed, until 1979 the Antiquities Act was the only law which imposed criminal penalties for damage to or theft of historic resources. The eventual failure of this aspect of the 1906 act can probably be viewed as the most important factor leading to the formulation and passage of the new law.

*The term "historic resources" as used here includes archeological resources; see preceeding issue of HASN.

**Even current law offers little or no protection to privately owned archeological sites. Many problems concerning the disappearing resource base in archeology could be alleviated if this were not the case. At present, the only defense against vandalism of sites on private land is public education.

In 1906 no one could have foreseen the growth of artifact collecting as a hobby or the development of a lucrative market for prehistoric artifacts. By the 1960's and 1970's, however, these phenomena constituted one of the most serious threats to the resource base of archeology--the destruction of sites in the search for artifacts. Rippeteau (1979) indicates how widespread these activities have become. During the 1970's, in the course of prosecution of some of the cases of vandalism to archeological sites on federal property, the constitutionality of the Antiquities Act was challenged. The reader is referred to Rippeteau (1979) and to Collins and Green (1978) for more detail of these cases and for an excellent summary of the events.

In an especially significant judgment on one of the cases in 1974, the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals held that the Antiquities Act of 1906 was unconstitutionally vague with respect to the specific meaning of the term "object of antiquity." The decision left historic resources located on federal lands in the Ninth Circuit (Alaska, Arizona, California, Guam, Hawaii, Idaho, the Mariana Islands, Montana, Nevada, Oregon, and Washington) without effective protection.

Although the Antiquities Act was subsequently upheld in courts in the Tenth Circuit, the need for a new statute was obvious, and, by 1978, several drafts of proposed legislation were being circulated nationally. Most of these drafts addressed several of the same points.

Penalties provided by the 1906 act were insignificant compared to the potential profit a looter might expect from the sale of even one prehistoric pot. Payment of the maximum fine of \$500 in some instances was viewed simply as overhead in transactions netting profits of several thousands of dollars.

The 1906 act imposed no penalties on persons who deal in illegally obtained artifacts. Some means was needed to control the lucrative market which ultimately supported or encouraged the looting of archeological sites.

Not least important was the need to resolve the definition of "object of antiquity" upon which the unfortunate ruling of the Ninth Circuit Court had been based.

The Archeological Resources Protection Act of 1979 resulted from bills introduced concurrently in the House of Representatives and the Senate in February 1979. Originally, there were differences in the two versions over some of the provisions, the Senate version, supported by most archeologists, being the more stringent. Most of the points of disagreement were finally settled, however, when the Senate agreed to several of the more lax provisions of the House version (Anthropology Newsletter, December 1979). Some of the provisions of the final version, which became law on October 31, 1979, are discussed below.

P.L. 96-95 prohibits excavation, damage, removal, alteration, and defacement of archeological resources from public lands without a permit, thus essentially restating provisions of the 1906 act. The new act goes further, however, in prohibiting the sale, purchase, exchange, transportation, receipt, or offer to sell, purchase, or exchange any archeological resource obtained illegally from federal lands. It also prohibits these same acts in the interstate or foreign commerce of artifacts acquired in violation of any State or local law. Criminal penalties for violation of these provisions are significantly increased, and rewards for witnesses are authorized. First offenses are punishable by fines up to \$10,000 and/or imprisonment up to one year, unless the value of the resources and cost of restoration and repair exceed the sum of \$5,000, in which case penalties may be doubled. Repeat violators may face fines up to \$100,000 and/or prison sentences up to five years. A system of civil penalties is provided for less serious violations.

In order to avoid ambiguity, the 1979 act includes a section of definitions. In the definition of "archeological resource," an age limit of at least 100 years is specified. Under the terms of P.L. 96-95, therefore, artifacts less than 100 years old found on federal lands are not protected. Most archeologists consider this to be a major shortcoming of the new law in view of the relatively few years characterizing the period of historic settlement in many of our western states. For example, the 100-year age limit has the effect of removing protection from up to 95% of the resources of the historic period in places such as Colorado and Wyoming. Members of the Society for Historical Archaeology in particular have expressed disappointment over this provision. Powerful opposition from artifact collectors to the Senate version of the bill, which would have incorporated a 50-year age requirement, may have been largely responsible for this compromise (Newsletter of the Society of Professional Archeologists, October 1979). Archeologists working for the U. S. Forest Service, Southwest Division, have pointed out that materials less than 100 years old may still be protected by provisions of the 1906 Antiquities Act and/or the theft and malicious mischief statutes (18 U.S.C. 641 and 1361). Furthermore, individual federal agencies may be able to develop more stringent regulations (SHA Newsletter, June 1980, p. 7).

The definition of "public lands" protected under the 1979 act specifically excludes lands on the Outer Continental Shelf. The new law therefore offers no protection at all to any of the shipwreck sites located outside state waters. Marine archeologists view the outcome as nothing less than disastrous. Strong, organized, well-funded lobbies from the underwater treasure hunting interests clearly won out over archeological interests on this point. The exclusion of shipwreck sites as protected resources may, in fact, have been politically motivated. (See Cockrell, 1980, for the most recent and complete report on the predicament of underwater archeology.)

A small, though controversial, provision of the new act is that persons who remove arrowheads from the surface of the ground are exempted from the

penalties mentioned above. This exemption may have been a more significant victory of the artifact-collecting segment of the public than the 100-year age requirement discussed earlier. Full implications of this provision, however, are not clear. Some archeologists have told me that arrowhead collecting is still prohibited under the provisions of the regulations of most government agencies, while others have expressed the opinion that this provision negates all previously existing regulations.

Reactions within the archeological community to the 1979 act have been mixed. Most individuals with whom I have discussed the subject agree that the interests of archeology are better served with it than without it. As already indicated, there are obvious weaknesses, the effects of which cannot yet accurately be predicted. Most archeologists anticipate that enforcement of the new law will be very difficult. An archeologist with the Corps of Engineers pointed out, for example, that in the absence of eye witness accounts it is almost impossible to prove whether artifacts were collected as surface finds or through digging. Furthermore, since many sites consist almost exclusively of surface materials, allowing surface collecting is tantamount to allowing total site destruction, with the result that in areas where a significant proportion of sites are surface scatters, regional settlement patterns may never accurately be determined.

Texas State Archeologist Curtis Tunnell agrees that the major problems concern the minimum age of resources, the question of surface collecting, and the difficulty of enforcement. He has indicated, however, that the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation has recently begun to strongly urge local federal authorities to become more aggressive in the enforcement of antiquities laws. Prosecution in some of the Texas cases may at last be forthcoming.

In Arizona, one conviction under the new law has already been reported (Newsweek, June 23, 1980; Rippeteau, 1979). Details made available in the reports are somewhat vague and contradictory. The offense apparently occurred during 1977, prior to the enactment of the law upon which the conviction and sentence were based. Plea bargaining may have been involved.

Time must pass before many issues are resolved and questions answered. Laws written by Congress depend on agencies of the executive branch for implementation and enforcement. Accordingly, most federal agencies affected are now drafting regulations to implement the new law. Although these may not actually be published for some time, pending reorganization of the lead agency within the Department of Interior, their import must not be overlooked by the archeological community. We need to become at least as familiar with and active in the mechanisms of government affecting historic resources as are those interested in them solely for profit or as curiosities to be collected and hung over the mantel.

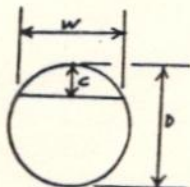
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Measurement of Curvature of Potsherds

Lee Patterson has suggested the method shown below for determining the curvature of a sherd as a means of obtaining the original diameter of a vessel. There is a depth gage on the end of most calipers that can be used for this type of measurement.

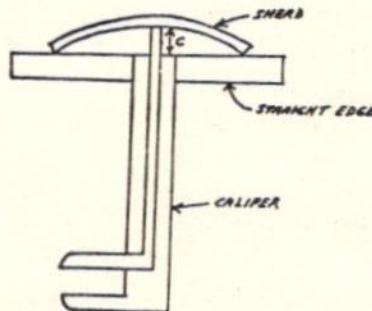
DETERMINATION OF VESSEL DIAMETER

W = SHERD WIDTH

C = DEPTH OF CURVATURE OF SHERD FROM FLAT PLANE

D = VESSEL DIAMETER

$$D = C + \frac{W^2}{4C}$$

MEASUREMENT WITH CALIPER DEPTH GAGEL.W. PATTERSON
1/80

THE WILLIAM DOBIE SURVEY, HARRIS COUNTY, TEXAS

Part 1. History and Genealogy

by Richard L. Gregg

(Continued from March 1980, p.30)

William Dobie's Sons in Harris County, Texas. Three of William Dobie's sons came to Harris County, Texas in the 1830's: Nathaniel James, Sterling Neblett and Robert Neville Dobie. William's wife and the other children remained in Virginia.³⁴ Although the former two sons arrived in Texas about a year before their father's death, little is known of their relationships with him here.

Nathaniel James Dobie. Nathaniel James Dobie was born in Sussex County, Virginia in 1811 or 1812.³⁵ On June 18, 1834, he and Daniel McCaskill, both of Perry's Bridge, Lafayette Parish, Louisiana, entered into a partnership known as McCaskill and Dobie. According to the terms of the agreement, Dobie was to furnish \$1000 "and to go out to the . . . Province of Texas and there establish a store on the Trinity or San Jacinto Rivers or at any other point or place as he may think best calculated for a mercantile business." McCaskill was to furnish \$5000 and the "remaining stock of goods at this place" (Perry's Bridge, presumably), to "attend to purchasing goods in New Orleans or elsewhere as occasion may require," and to sell "such drove or droves of fat cattle as may . . . at any time be received from Texas." McCaskill was to receive two-thirds of the profit and Dobie one-third.³⁶

The store was established in Harrisburg. Mrs. Dilue Harris in her Reminiscences recalled that in May 1834 a schooner with a number of "emigrants" arrived at Harrisburg and noted that "Mr. Doby brought dry goods and groceries."³⁷ DeWitt Clinton Harris, whom she listed as one of the emigrants, became a clerk for McCaskill and Dobie.³⁸ He was a son of John R. Harris, for whom Nathaniel Dobie's father William had clerked in 1828-29. The younger Harris later held a number of public offices in Harrisburg and Harris County. Nathaniel's brother, Sterling Neblett Dobie, may also have worked in the store. According to J. Frank Dobie:

I have a photostat of a note dated May 20, 1835, and written from Trinity River, in which Nathaniel Dobie instructs his brother Sterling to pay William Duncan "sixty dollars in money" for cotton. Evidently Nathaniel was off on a trip and Sterling was running the store.³⁹

On February 1, 1836, Nathaniel Dobie was elected one of the four Regidores of the Municipality of Harrisburg, a position similar to that of county commissioner.⁴⁰ This government was short-lived; the Mexicans captured Harrisburg in April of that year.

³⁴William's grandson, Alpheus W. Potts, son of Charles and Virginia (Dobie) Potts, was in Brazoria, Texas in 1877. See San Jacinto Co. Deeds C:579.

³⁵"Telegraph and Texas Register," April 21, 1838, p.3

³⁶Harris Co. Probate Records L:608-609

³⁷"Reminiscences of Mrs. Dilue Harris," *Texas Historical Association Quarterly*, 4:108. (Many of her dates have been shown to be in error.)

³⁸Walter Prescott Webb (ed.), *The Handbook of Texas* (1952), 1:774

³⁹J. Frank Dobie, untitled manuscript concerning Dobie Family history, dated July 13, 1957 (somewhat edited by the unnamed transcriber); furnished by Dudley R. Dobie, Jr., Houston

⁴⁰Andrew Forest Muir, "The Municipality of Harrisburg, 1835-1836," *SWHQ*, 56:43-44

Surprisingly, the most detailed accounts of Nathaniel Dobie's activities are from the chaotic time of the Revolution. The information comes principally from the journal of Col. William Fairfax Gray, a Virginia lawyer hired in 1835 by several wealthy Washington, D. C., investors to evaluate the possibilities for Texas land speculation.⁴¹ On March 10, 1836, Col. Gray met a Dr. Neblett "from Virginia" at Washington-on-the-Brazos. Gray never mentions his first name, but this was Sterling Neblett, probably William Dobie's brother-in-law from Lunenburg County, Virginia (Sterling Neblett, Sr., William Dobie's father-in-law, had died in 1832).⁴²

On March 23 at Earle's, on the way from Harrisburg to Zavala's, Gray says he "met with Dr. Neblett and Mr. Nat I. Dobie, of Harrisburg, on their return from the bay. Detained some time in conversation." For over a month, the three of them, plus Robert Triplett, traveled together, although at times one or more would go his own way. Their main preoccupation was land speculation. Triplett also wrote of these travels in his autobiography, but not in as much detail as Gray. In fact, he does not mention Dobie at all.⁴³

The group first looked at land around Lynchburg and Morgan's Point. Then, on April 8, they were on Galveston Island where "Triplett and Neblett measured off two sections of ground here, as the site of a future town. It is the site of Lafitte's old fort . . . broken bottles, crockery, bricks, nails, etc. are still visible. . . . The island is forty miles long — only three trees on it. No habitation . . . A great number of deer on the island." Triplett says that they paid the new Texas government \$2000 for rights to locate the land. He adds: "I went down with Dr. N —, from whom I got the money, and located one section on Galveston Island, where the city of Galveston now stands. I made the survey with a pocket compass [and] prepared the field notes."⁴⁴

On April 10, the group took the ship Shenandoah for Harrisburg, but it grounded on Red Fish Bar. So they "set out in our little boat" and "ran into a cove near Clear Creek, and landed at the home of Mr. Edwards, where we found Mr. Ashmore Edwards and his brother-in-law, Ritson Morris (Jaw Bone M.). . . . Morris came from Lunenburg County, Virginia. Neblett and he were acquainted there."⁴⁵ They were now in the vicinity of the William Dobie Survey.⁴⁶

The next day Neblett and Morris rode a mule to Lynch's, while Triplett, Dobie and Gray walked to New Washington (Morgan's Point). Gray wrote that "Morris' league is a fine one, on the west side of the bay. He raised 350 bushels of yams or sweet potatoes from one acre and from the experiment he made in cotton he thinks he raised 3,000 pounds to the acre. It is well diversified with woods and . . . prairie."⁴⁷

⁴¹Col. Wm. F. Gray, *From Virginia to Texas, 1835* (1909), various pages 129 to 223

⁴²*Ibid.*, p.129; Harris Co. Deeds A:326-330; Lunenburg Co., Va. Wills 10:199-200

⁴³Gray, p.144; Roland Trevor, *The Pilot of Human Life* (1853), (the autobiography of Robert Triplett) pp.330-360

⁴⁴Gray, p.156; Trevor, p.345; in Robert S. Gray (ed.), *A Visit to Texas in 1831* (1975), pp.2,72-73, it is noted that near the western end of the island "are three low trees growing near the water."

⁴⁵Gray, pp. 148,158; Jennie Larrabee, "Recollections of . . . the Ritson Morris family," *Bay Area News*, April 25, 1974; Sterling Dobie married Morris' daughter.

⁴⁶See the land grant map, Fig.2, given previously (HAS Newsletter, No.66, p.30).

⁴⁷Gray, p.159

The trio finally arrived on April 13 at Lynch's, where Neblett was waiting. Triplett, Neblett and Dobie then "hastened on to Harrisburg" to get government approval for their claims on Galveston Island and Point Bolivar. They were unsuccessful, and Triplett and Neblett returned to Lynch's. On April 15, Neblett again rode for Harrisburg, but on the way, at the only place where the road "touched upon" Buffalo Bayou, "he saw the smoke of a steamboat coming down. He awaited its approach. . . . Had Dr. N — not met it just where he did, he would have gone on to Harrisburg, and fallen into the hands of the Mexicans." Col. Gray, at Lynch's, reported: "At night the steamboat [Cayuga] came down, Neblett in her, also the President . . . and all the inhabitants of Harrisburg." Angered by this escape, Santa Anna ordered Harrisburg burned. While at Lynch's, President Burnet finally agreed to the granting of one section (640 acres) on Galveston Island. It is not known where Dobie was at this time, but on April 18 he rejoined the group at Anahuac.⁴⁸

A large portion of the Texas population was now fleeing for Louisiana; this was the so-called Runaway Scrape. By April 21, the day of the Battle of San Jacinto, Dobie and company had reached Beaumont, which consisted "of only three or four houses." There they had to build a boat to cross the Neches. The next day they built a raft to cross the Sabine and were "once more on Uncle Sam's land." ⁴⁹

After traveling another twenty miles, "Neblett and Dobie went on four miles further to Dr. Robt. Neblett's." The next day, April 26, Gray "stopt for a short time at Dr. R. Neblett's, who then rode with us to Calcasieu ferry."⁵⁰

On April 29, 1836, Neblett and Dobie went on ahead of Gray, and there is no further mention of Dobie in Gray's journal. On May 9, Gray met Neblett and McCaskill in New Orleans. Gray then returned east and on June 25 in Washington, D. C. met Neblett and T. Green, who were "on their way to Philadelphia and New York to try to sell Galveston." Much of the journal is devoted to the "Galveston Scheme," particularly the conflicting land claims. Finally, on June 15, 1837, the principal claimants, Neblett, et al. (640 acres) and Michael B. Menard (4605 acres), signed an agreement to consolidate their claims and "make a joint stock company of it." Triplett placed the value of his group's interest at \$200,000 "or one-fifth of the whole. Dr. N — and his copartners owning half my grant; T. Green and myself the other, less 5 per cent to Col. Grey."⁵¹

⁴⁸Gray, pp.160,161,165; Trevor, p.345; Jean McGinty, "The Floating Capital of Texas," unpublished manuscript furnished by the author, Dayton, Texas

⁴⁹Gray, pp.167,168,170

⁵⁰Gray, p.171. This was Dr. Robert Caldwell Neblett (1795-1871) of Neblett's Bluff, Louisiana, whom J. Frank Dobie mistakenly identifies as the Dr. Neblett who accompanied Gray, Triplett and Nathaniel Dobie. Robert C. Neblett was a relative of the Dobies, but the exact relationship is not known. He was not a brother-in-law of William Dobie as has been ventured. In 1841 he moved to Grimes Co., Texas and he and his family had a number of dealings with the Dobies and McCaskill. See J. Frank Dobie, "Frontier Dobies," *Houston Post*, Aug.11, 1957; *Handbook of Texas*, 2:265; also #39, above.

⁵¹Gray, pp.172,178,180,185,193; John H. Jenkins (ed.), *Papers of the Texas Revolution 1835-1836* (1973), items 2777, 3056, 3219; Harris Co. Deeds A:326-330; Charles W. Hayes, *History of the Island and the City of Galveston* (1879), p259; Trevor, p.357

In June 1836, Nathaniel James Dobie hired Lewis Birdsall Harris, age 15, another son of John R. Harris, to "go to Calcasieu La. and get some valuable papers which he had sent there to be out of reach of the Mexicans." Most likely the papers were at Dr. Robert Neblett's. Harris says that Dobie "furnished me a good Mexican horse, saddle, bridle and portmanteau. . . . The first day I went to Lynchburg and took the road . . . to San Jacinto and rode over the battle ground again. The bodies of most of the dead Mexicans were still lying where they had fallen and were being dried up by the sun, the wild animals did not appear to molest them." Later Harris reports that he "got back safely with my books and papers, all right, except for a little wetting."⁵²

In September 1836, "Mr. Doby," of Harrisburg, presumably Nathaniel James Dobie, attended "the barbecue, ball, and election . . . at Mr. Dyer's," in the vicinity of Stafford, Texas. A handwritten calling card of Nathaniel Dobie is shown in Figure 3.⁵³

After the Revolution, the firm of McCaskill and Dobie reopened for business in Harrisburg; any building or supplies left there would have been destroyed when the town was burned. On May 13, 1837, the name of the firm was changed to Dobie and McCaskill and the two partners were to share equally in the profits. On July 8, 1837, they advertised "for sale, on consignment, 100 kegs of mixed paints and oils . . . cut glassware, a small lot of ready made clothething . . . and 15 hogsheads of sugar."⁵⁴

Between September 23, 1837, and January 13, 1838, the business was moved to the new and growing neighboring town of Houston. But by April 7, 1838, they may have been in some financial difficulty: "All persons having claims against [Dobie and McCaskill] are requested to present them for payment, and these indebted will please make immediate payment, as further indulgence cannot be given." They also joined other merchants in refusing to trade in "Tickets or Change Tickets except those issued by the City Corporation." One stubborn creditor seems to have been the Texas Government.⁵⁵

In early 1838 Nathaniel James Dobie was on the Board of Land Commissioners of Harrisburg County. No land grants had been issued for over two years, so numerous sessions of the Board were necessary to hear all the claims. On February 10, Dobie himself appeared before the Board to claim one-third of a league (1476 acres), the amount due a single person who had arrived in Texas prior to March 2, 1836, the date of the Declaration of Independence. Attesting to this, Robert Wilson⁵⁶ stated that he knew Dobie in 1834 and that Dobie had "remained

⁵²"Journal of Lewis Birdsall Harris, 1836-1842," *SWHQ*, 25:140-146

⁵³"Reminiscences of Mrs. Dilue Harris," *Texas Historical Association Quarterly*, 4:183,184; Calling Cards, Briscoe-Harris-Looscan Collection, San Jacinto Museum

⁵⁴J. Frank Dobie, "Frontier Dobies," *Houston Post*, Aug.11, 1957; "Telegraph and Texas Register," July 8, 1837, p.3

⁵⁵"Telegraph and Texas Register," Sept.23,1837, p.2; Jan.13, 1838, p.3; April 7, 1838, p.4; May 30, 1838, p.2; Charles Adams Gulick, Jr., et al. (eds.), *The Papers of Mirabeau Buonaparte Lamar* (1968), II:159-161

⁵⁶Robert Wilson was a business partner of William P. Harris, a brother of John R. Harris; they owned the steamboat Cayuga mentioned above. Note in Figure 2, p.30, the following land grants near the William Dobie Survey: Robert Wilson, Sarah Deel (Wilson's wife), Wm. P. Harris and David Harris (another brother of John R.).

in the country." Another witness, one Luke A. Falvel, said that Dobie "left the country for a short time to recruit his health." Was this during the Runaway Scrape?⁵⁷

Nathaniel James Dobie died on April 17, 1838. His obituary in the Telegraph and Texas Register, then published in Houston, reads:

Died in this city on the morning of the 17th instant, of congestive fever, Mr. Nathaniel James Dobie, of the commercial house of Dobie and McCaskill, aged 26 years. The deceased has been a resident of this county four years; among the thousands who have had dealings with him, there is none to say but that he was a just man. All knew him, many loved him, all respected him, none censured him—he lies apart from his father in a strange land. Mr. Dobie was a native of Sussex county in Virginia, where his relations still reside.

Will the New Orleans, Richmond and Petersburg, Va. papers notice this.⁵⁸

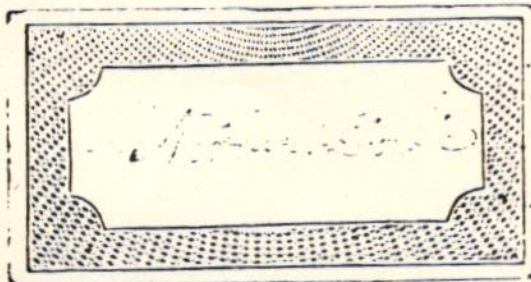
Sterling Neblett Dobie was appointed administrator for his brother's estate. It included several lots in Harrisburg and Houston, 1480 acres along Buffalo Bayou, Harris County (valued at 50 cents per acre), 321½ acres on the Brazos River in Fort Bend County, 1111 acres in Gonzales County, purchased headrights for 1924 acres in Bexar County and for 2000 acres, county unspecified. The estate also included Nathaniel Dobie's own headright of one-third league (1476 acres) and his share in his father's estate, particularly the William Dobie Survey. The partnership of Dobie and McCaskill is described as being "considerably involved in debt" and "insolvent." The estate was not settled until 1854.⁵⁹

(To be continued)

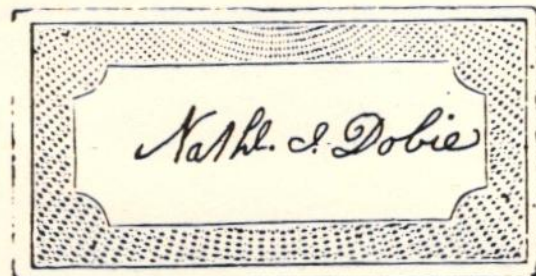
⁵⁷Gifford White, *The Lost Book of Harris County* (1968), original pages 20, 174, 175, plus several intermediate ones; the original is in the Spanish Archives, General Land Office, Austin; J. Frank Dobie, "Frontier Dobies," *Houston Post*, Aug. 18, 1957; *Lamar Papers*, II:37, V:174

⁵⁸"Telegraph and Texas Register," April 21, 1838, p.3; "Extracts from the Diary of W. Y. Allen, 1838-1839," *SWHQ*, 17:45

⁵⁹Harris County Probate Records B:260-2, G:300-3, H:281-4, 445-6, I:78-9, L:608-9



a. copy of original (faded ink)



b. with signature traced

Fig. 3. Handwritten calling card of Nathaniel James Dobie

White Oak Bayou Sites
(Continued from HAS Newsletter No. 66)

W. L. McClure

41 HR 278

This site is 200 feet upstream from 41 HR 279-B. Artifacts were exposed by erosion two to eight feet below the present surface, at the four places where the banks of the natural stream were intersected by the slopes of the new channel. The material from the four exposures has been combined for this report.

BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL:

A few bones were found at the site. These include an upper molar and two upper premolars of bison (*Bison* sp.), an incisor of horse (*Equus* sp.), half a femur of fox squirrel (*Sciurus niger*), and three bone fragments of unidentified large mammal. In the absence of controlled excavation, there is no assurance that these bones are not earlier or later than the human occupation.

FEATURES:

Three hearths were exposed by erosion of the topsoil. The hearths were about one half meter wide and the clay lumps are similar to but somewhat smaller than those in Feature #1 of 41 HR 279-A. A flint flake and a Perdiz arrow point were found in close association with one of the hearths.

CERAMICS:

The collection includes 109 sherds of pottery vessels. Five (5%) are San Jacinto Plain and the rest are Goose Creek wares. Total weight is 520 grams.

San Jacinto Plain: (5)

Color, paste and consistency are typical. One Type 1 rim and 4 body sherds were found. One sherd has an asphaltic coating on the interior. Thickness varies from 5 to 9 mm.

Goose Creek Plain: (104)

Fifteen of the body sherds have an asphaltic coating, primarily on the interior. They also have a very dark brown core color, with the paste sometimes being somewhat contorted. Color, paste and consistency of the other sherds are typical. Of the six rim sherds, two each are Type 1, Type 2, and Type 5. Thickness of the rim sherds varies from 4 to 6 mm. None have lip notches. One of the Type 1 rim sherds, with attached body sherd measures 75 by 120 mm. It is from a straight-sided vessel with a radius of curvature of 125 mm.

One body sherd has a drilled hole that is 8 mm. on the exterior, 6 mm. on the interior, with a minimum opening of 4 mm. The thickness of 98 body sherds varies from 4 to 8 mm. with the average being 6.0 mm. No bases were found.

LITHICS:

Bifaces:

Three bifacially worked objects were found. One is a tabular piece of silicified wood from which a few small flakes were removed. One was a flint tool that had two breaks which left its original shape uncertain. The other is probably a flint core. Total weight is 38 grams.

41 HR 278

Projectile Points:

The collection includes eleven projectile points. Five are dart points and six are arrow points.

Yarbrough: (1) (Fig. 40, B.)

This heavily patinated flint point was found about 50 feet away from one of the main collection areas. Weight is 10.9 grams.

Kent: (1) (Fig. 40, C.)

This poorly made flint point is fairly typical of the Kent type in this area. Weight is 3.2 grams.

Palmillas: (1) (Fig. 40, D.)

The tip was broken by impact. The silicified wood has spalled somewhat due to being in fire. Weight is 4.1 grams.

Gary: (1) (Fig. 40, E.)

This is made from good quality silicified wood. Weight is 7.2 grams.

Unidentified Dart Point--Expanded Stem: (1) (Fig. 40, A.)

This is the stem of a flint dart point. It has rounded corners and a straight base. Weight is 0.7 grams.

Perdiz: (3) (Fig. 40, G., H., I.)

These are fairly typical Perdiz arrow points, although Item I is near the shape of Bassett points. Item G is flint and weighs 2.3 grams. Item H has had very little alteration of the ventral face of the flint flake. It weighs 1.2 grams. Item I is silicified wood and weighs 1.1 grams.

Alba: (3) (Fig. 40, J., H., L.)

These flint points are within the range of the Alba type arrow points. Item J weighs 1.0 grams. Items K and L each weighs 0.5 grams and they appear to have been made from flakes from the same rock.

Uniface:

The large flint flake shown in Fig. 40, F. has been retouched along each edge from opposite sides. It has been used as a scraper. Weight is 9.7 grams.

Flakes and Chips:

The collection includes 92 flakes and chips that weigh 75 grams. Eight are silicified wood and the others are flint. Twelve are larger than fifteen mm.

Use scars are found on 32 (35%). Twentysix show evidence of use for cutting and three for scraping. One each has been retouched with a straight, a concave, and a denticulate edge. One is fire-popped.

A tabulation of the characteristics of the flakes and chips is shown in Table 20.

DISCUSSION:

This site was apparently occupied from the late Archaic into the Late Prehistoric periods.

41 HR 278

Comparison with nearby 41 HR 279-B shows some similarities as well as differences. It may be possible that the people who used the Alba arrow points also were using either the San Jacinto Plain or the asphalt coated pottery. Such conclusions must be avoided in the absence of excavations.

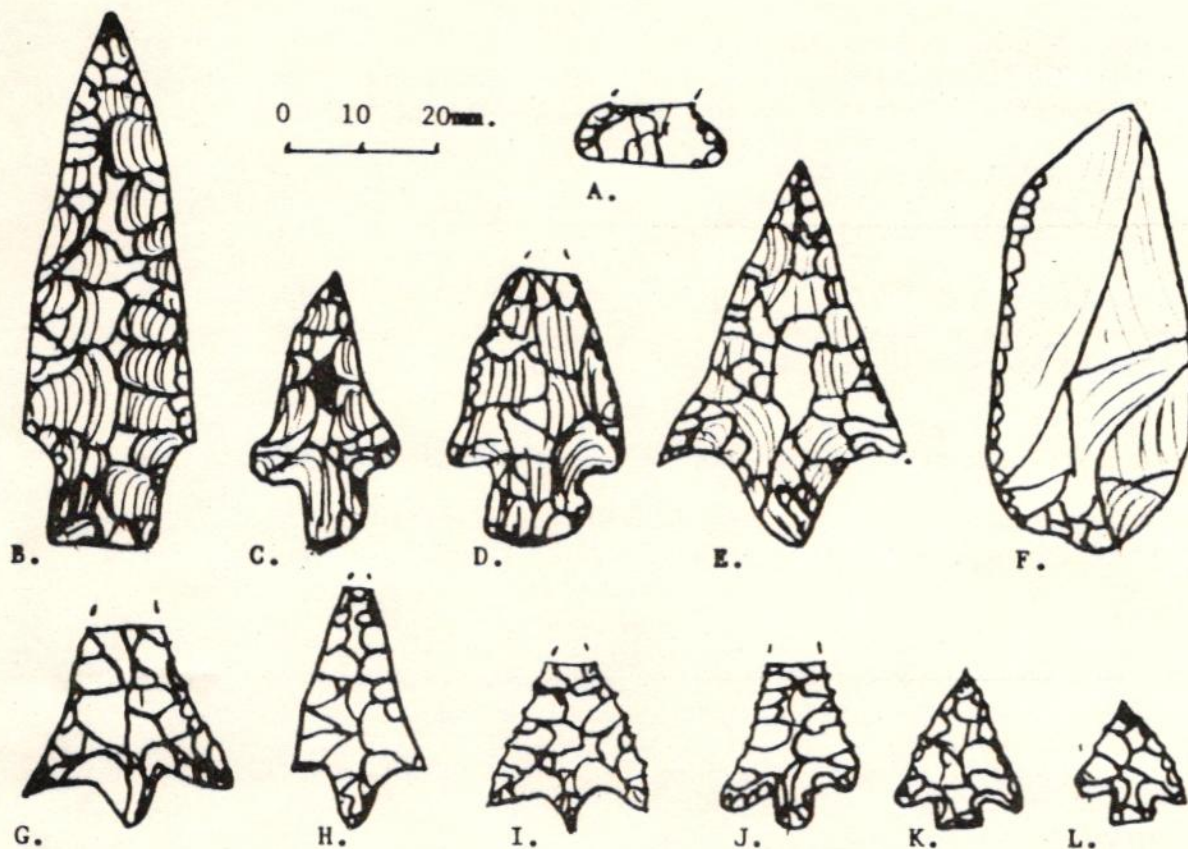


Figure 40.

| Size | Material | Utilized | | | | Unutilized | | | | Totals | | | |
|-------------|----------|----------|----|----|-------|------------|----|----|-------|--------|----|----|-------|
| | | P. | S. | I. | total | P. | S. | I. | total | P. | S. | I. | total |
| 0 to 10mm. | flint | | 2 | 5 | 7 | 2 | 14 | 15 | 31 | 2 | 16 | 20 | 38 |
| | sil.wood | | | | | | 1 | 3 | 4 | | 1 | 3 | 4 |
| | total | | 2 | 5 | 7 | 2 | 15 | 18 | 35 | 2 | 17 | 23 | 42 |
| 10 to 15mm. | flint | | 3 | 9 | 12 | 7 | 8 | 8 | 23 | 7 | 11 | 17 | 35 |
| | sil.wood | | | 2 | 2 | | 1 | | 1 | | 1 | 2 | 3 |
| | total | | 3 | 11 | 14 | 7 | 9 | 8 | 24 | 7 | 12 | 19 | 38 |
| 15 to 20mm. | flint | | 3 | 4 | 7 | 1 | | | 1 | 1 | 3 | 4 | 8 |
| 20 to 25mm. | flint | | 1 | 1 | 2 | | | | | | 1 | 1 | 2 |
| | sil.wood | | | 1 | 1 | | | | | | | 1 | 1 |
| | total | | 1 | 2 | 3 | | | | | | 1 | 2 | 3 |
| 25 to 30mm. | flint | | | 1 | 1 | | | | | | | 1 | 1 |
| Totals | | | 9 | 23 | 32 | 10 | 24 | 26 | 60 | 10 | 33 | 49 | 92 |

Table 20.

Flakes and Chips

41 HR 297

This site is on the south side of White Oak Bayou, about 150 feet downstream of 41 HR 298. Caskey found a few artifacts at the site in 1960 and his collection is at TARL. A few additional artifacts were exposed by erosion after channel alteration in 1975. The site is associated with a naturally filled channel of the bayou that was cut by the new channel. The fill is organic clay.

Surface elevation is about 80 feet above sea level.

CERAMICS:

A total of four sherds of broken pottery vessels was found. Four different vessels are represented. The color, paste, and consistency are typical of Goose Creek wares. All are body sherds. One sherd is incised and is shown in Figure 41, A. It is 8.5 mm. thick and the plain body sherds vary from 5 to 6 mm.

LITHICS:

The collection includes one projectile point and a flint core and a flint flake. The core and flake may be recent road gravel.

Projectile Point:

Gary: (1) (Fig. 41, B.)

This unfinished flint point apparently broke during the flaking operation. The base is typical of the type. Weight is 4.5 grams.

DISCUSSION:

The site was occupied during the Woodland period but it adds little to our knowledge of prehistoric occupation. Nothing remains of the site today.

The sketches were made by Phyllis Wolf from the TARL collection.

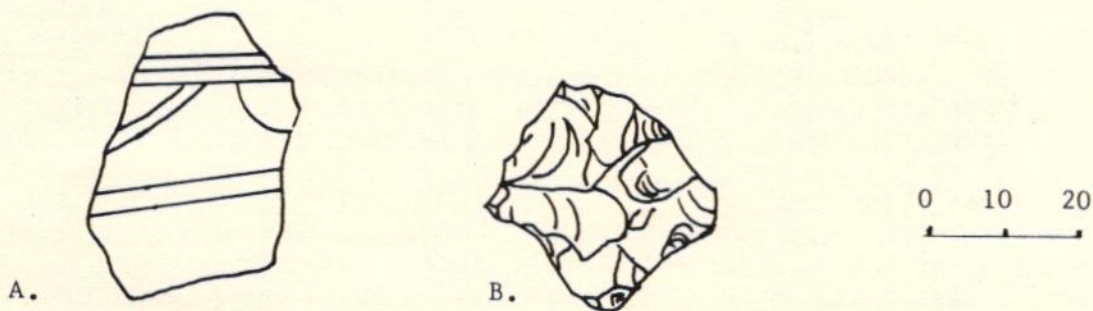


Figure 41.

NOTE:

All artifacts that were in McClure's possession and have been discussed in earlier installments of this series are now on deposit at the Department of Anthropology at the University of Houston.

41 HR 291

This site is in a straight section of the bayou. Artifacts were exposed on both sides of the bayou by erosion of the gray sand which extends from the topsoil down at least 12 feet. The contact with red clay is obscured. Surface elevation is about 78 feet above sea level. Artifacts from both sides of the bayou are combined for this report.

BIOLOGICAL MATERIALS:

Two carapace bones of the box turtle (*Terrapene carolina*) and a molar of a whitetail deer (*Odocoileus virginianus*) were found. All are eroded from loss of minerals. The tooth is of an old individual.

LITHICS:

Unmodified Pebbles:

One flint pebble is unmodified but has several small spots of reddish mineral deposit on surfaces. This may be residue from crushing pigment. It is 53 by 43 mm. and weighs 80 grams. Thirteen other pebbles of various colors weigh 26 grams. Size varies from 10 to 22 mm. Some appear to have been polished.

Cores:

The collection includes two broken flint cores of irregular shape. Total weight is 14 grams.

Bifaces: (Fig. 42, C. & D.)

Two broken crude bifaces were found. Both have nearly straight bases and slightly convex sides. Item C has multiple flecks of patination. Item D is white from patination and has adherent caliche. Weights are 21.9 and 14.5 grams.

Projectile Points:

Two dart points were found.

Kent: (2) (Fig. 42, A. & B.)

These two flint points are yellowed with patination. Item A has spots of caliche on its surface. These points are better made than most Kent dart points from this area. Weights are 10.0 and 10.7 grams.

Flakes and Chips:

Three pieces of very rough silicified wood were apparently knocked off of an irregular cobble in order to expose better material. They weigh 35 grams. Twenty-six other flakes and chips weigh 34 grams. Nearly all are heavily patinated and a few have adherent caliche. Eight (30%) are larger than 15 mm. One small flake has been altered to form a graver (Fig. 42, E.). Six have been used for cutting and two for scraping purposes. Perhaps others would show use scars if the patination were not so advanced.

A tabulation of the characteristics of flakes and chips is in Table 21.

41 HR 291

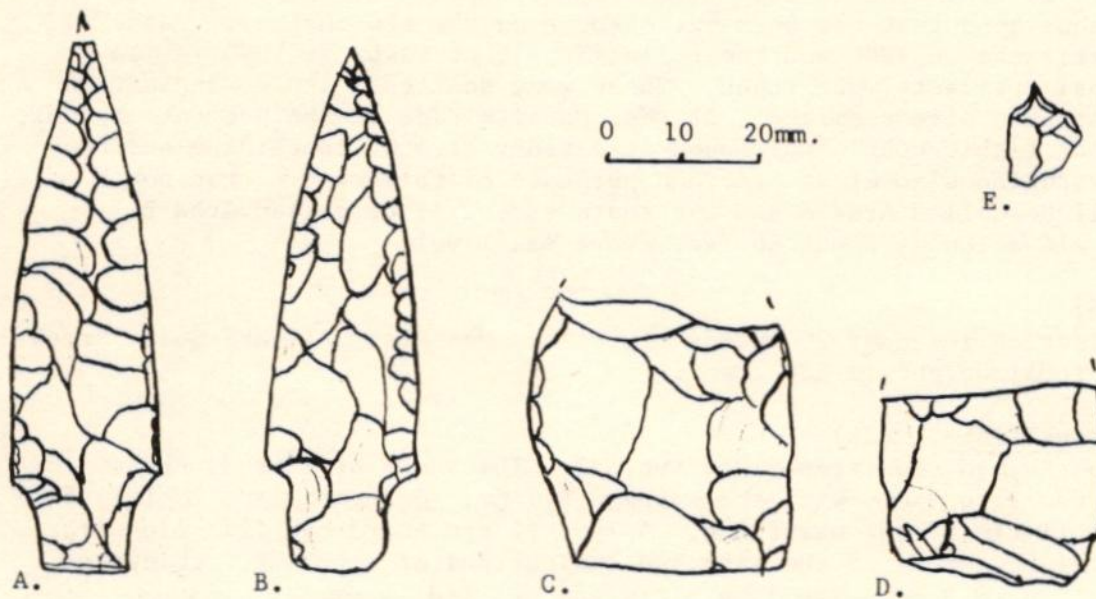


Figure 42

DISCUSSION:

On the basis of geology, patination of flint, presence of caliche on artifacts, size of flakes and the absence of ceramics it is probable that this site was occupied in the Late Archaic. Perhaps the Kent type of points were made with more care and skill during the Archaic than during the Woodland period.

| Size | Material | Utilized | | | | Unutilized | | | | Totals | | | |
|-------------|----------|----------|----|----|-------|------------|----|----|-------|--------|----|----|-------|
| | | P. | S. | I. | total | P. | S. | I. | total | P. | S. | I. | total |
| 0 to 10mm. | Flint | | 1 | | 1 | | 2 | 5 | 7 | | 3 | 5 | 8 |
| 10 to 15mm. | Flint | | 1 | 1 | 2 | | 1 | 7 | 8 | | 2 | 8 | 10 |
| 15 to 20mm. | Flint | | 3 | 1 | 4 | | 1 | | 1 | | 4 | 1 | 5 |
| 20 to 25mm. | Flint | | 1 | 1 | 2 | | 1 | | 1 | | 2 | 1 | 3 |
| Totals | | | 6 | 3 | 9 | | 5 | 12 | 17 | | 11 | 15 | 26 |

Table 21

41 HR 304

This site is on the north side of White Oak Bayou, near the lower part of a horseshoe bend that has been cut through by the new channel. Caskey found artifacts in 1960 and his collection is at TARL. In 1975, a few additional artifacts were found. These were scattered and no indication of undisturbed site remained. On the opposite side of the present channel, additional lithic debris was found in a sandy stratum containing numerous small ferruginous nodules. For the purposes of this report, the north side will be called Area A and the south side will be called Area B. Surface elevation is about 86 feet above sea level.

CERAMICS:

The collection includes 26 sherds of pottery vessels. All are Goose Creek wares. Total weight is 180 grams.

Goose Creek Plain: (26)

Color, paste and consistency are typical. Thickness of 23 body sherds varies from 3 to 9 mm. with the average 5.7 mm. One each Type 2, Type 5 and Type 11 rim sherds was found. A Type 11 rim sherd has flat lip with outward flare. None of the rims had indications of notching. Thickness of rims is 4 to 7 mm. The Type 5 rim was drilled, 4 mm. ext., 3 mm. int.

OTHER FIRE-HARDENED MATERIAL:

Two amorphous lumps of fired clay were found. They are similar to those from 41 HR 278 and are presumed to be from a hearth.

LITHICS:

Core and Bifaces:

There is one irregular flint core that weighs 42 grams.

There are three rough irregular bifaces with no apparent intended use. One is silicified wood and two are flint. Total weight is 31 grams. There is also a biface thinning failure. The fracture shot through the biface. It shows subsequent minor use as a scraper. Weight is 6 grams.

Projectile Points:

The collection includes two dart points.

Gary: (1) (Fig. 43, A.)

This flint point is typical of the smaller Gary type in this area. Weight is 2.5 grams.

Unidentified Dart Point--Expanded Stem: (1) (Fig. 43, B.)

This flint base is similar to those on Palmillas points. Weight is 1.2 grams.

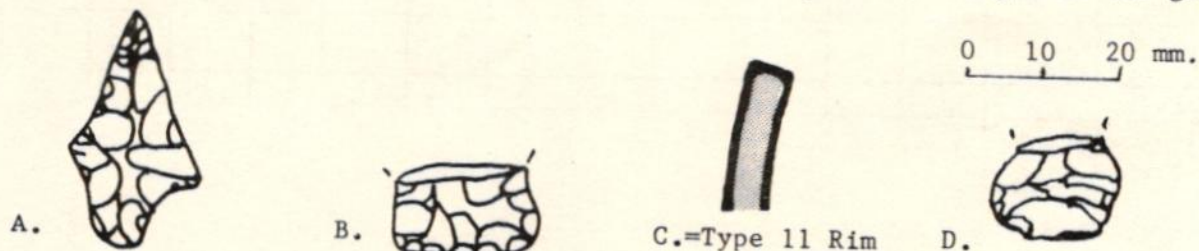


Figure 43

41 HR 304

Flakes and Chips:

The collection includes 32 flakes and chips that weigh 64 grams. Four are silicified wood and the others are flint. Nineteen are larger than 15 mm.

Use scars are found on 13 (41%). Four show evidence of use for cutting and 7 for scraping. Three have been retouched with a convex edge and one has a serrated edge. Two are fire popped.

(Inter-site comparison of the flake sizes should recognize that Caskey's collection may have been on a different basis than others in this report.)

A tabulation of the characteristics of the flakes and chips is shown in Table 22.

All of the above materials are from Area A. The following refers to material from Area B.

BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL:

Two bones of unidentified turtle were found. They may not have been associated with the artifacts.

LITHICS:Projectile Points:

The base of a flint dart point, Fig. 43, D., resembles a Palmillas point. Weight is 1.6 grams.

Flakes and Chips:

The collection from Area B includes 47 flakes and chips that weigh 18 grams. Seventeen are silicified wood and the others are flint. Five are larger than 15 mm.

Use scars are found on 13 (28%). Ten show evidence of use for cutting and one for scraping. One has been retouched with a straight edge and one has two concave retouched places. Two are fire popped and three are lipped.

| Size | Material | Utilized | | | | Unutilized | | | | Totals | | | |
|-------------|----------|----------|----|----|-------|------------|----|----|-------|--------|----|----|-------|
| | | P. | S. | I. | total | P. | S. | I. | total | P. | S. | I. | total |
| 0 to 10mm. | flint | | | | | | 1 | | 1 | | 1 | | 1 |
| | sil.wood | | | | | 1 | | 1 | 2 | 1 | | 1 | 2 |
| | total | | | | | 1 | 1 | 1 | 3 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 3 |
| 10 to 15mm. | flint | | 2 | 1 | 3 | | 2 | 3 | 5 | | 4 | 4 | 8 |
| | sil.wood | | | | | | 1 | 1 | 2 | | 1 | 1 | 2 |
| | total | | 2 | 1 | 3 | | 3 | 4 | 7 | | 5 | 5 | 10 |
| 15 to 20mm. | flint | | | 7 | 7 | 1 | 4 | 2 | 7 | 1 | 4 | 9 | 14 |
| 20 to 25mm. | flint | | 1 | | 1 | 1 | 1 | | 2 | 1 | 2 | | 3 |
| 25 to 30mm. | flint | | 1 | 1 | 2 | | | | | | 1 | 1 | 2 |
| Totals | | | 4 | 9 | 13 | 3 | 9 | 7 | 19 | 3 | 13 | 16 | 32 |

Table 22

Flakes and Chips (Area A).

41 HR 304

| Size | Material | Utilized | | | | Unutilized | | | | Totals | | | |
|-------------|----------|----------|----|----|-------|------------|----|----|-------|--------|----|----|-------|
| | | P. | S. | I. | total | P. | S. | I. | total | P. | S. | I. | total |
| 0 to 10mm. | flint | | 1 | 1 | 2 | | 3 | 12 | 15 | | 4 | 13 | 17 |
| | sil.wood | | | | | | 5 | 10 | 15 | | 5 | 10 | 15 |
| | total | | 1 | 1 | 2 | | 8 | 22 | 30 | | 9 | 23 | 32 |
| 10 to 15mm. | flint | | 3 | 5 | 8 | | 1 | 1 | 2 | | 4 | 6 | 10 |
| 15 to 20mm. | flint | | 1 | | 1 | | | | | | 1 | 1 | 2 |
| | sil.wood | | 1 | | 1 | | | | | | 1 | 1 | 2 |
| | total | | 2 | | 2 | | | | | | 2 | 2 | 4 |
| 20 to 25mm. | flint | | 1 | | 1 | | | | | | 1 | | 1 |
| Totals | | | 7 | 6 | 13 | | 9 | 23 | 32 | | 16 | 31 | 47 |

Table 23

Flakes and Chips (Area B)

DISCUSSION:

The artifacts indicate that this was a Woodland occupation. Whether it was two small or one larger site can not be determined. At any rate, nothing remains for further study.

Phyllis Wolf made the sketches and assisted with measurements at TARL.

41 HR 279-A Addendum

The report on 41 HR 279-A was in HAS Newsletters No. 63, 64, and 65, in April, August, and December, 1979. Continued erosion of the site has exposed a large amount of additional material. Most of the artifacts add little to what has been reported. However, one item is significant.

A complete, large Nolan dart point was found, Figure 44. It is very well made of a good quality of flint, not of local origin. Color is moderate brown (5YR4/4) with swirls of moderate yellowish brown (10YR5/4). Maximum thickness is 6 mm. Weight is 32.88 grams. Blade edges are convex with minute serrations. The point is 122 mm. long and has an 18° twist. The stem is alternately beveled on opposite faces. The base is straight and has been thinned. Stem edges were lightly smoothed. A few spots of caliche are on the blade.

The central Texas Archaic dart point was not expected in this Woodland site.

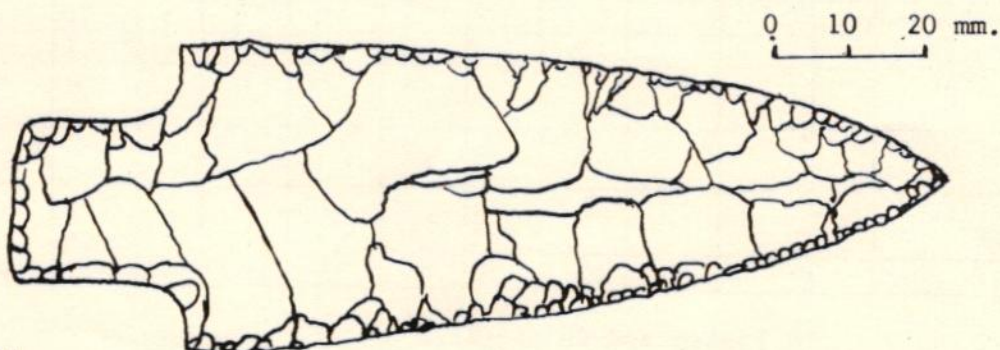


Figure 44

41 HR 292

This site is on the south bank of the present channel and was originally on the inside of a large horseshoe bend in the natural stream. Straightening of the channel and erosion have exposed a few artifacts. At this point, the top of the caliche-bearing, gray silty stratum is near the natural surface. Lithic artifacts appear to be within or just above the caliche. Ceramic material was found about 300 feet downstream and is reported here for convenience, although it is not from the same occupation as the lithics. Surface elevation is about 84 feet above sea level.

BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL:

A toe bone of a bison and a fragment of a bone from another large animal were found. They may not have been associated with the artifacts.

CERAMICS:

Fourteen small fragments of pottery vessels were found eroding from the top soil. They are typical body sherds of Goose Creek Plain wares. Thickness varies from 4 to 6 mm. Weight is 19 grams.

LITHICS:

Unmodified pebbles:

Six small pebbles were found. No alteration or use is indicated. Weight is eight grams.

Biface: (1) (Fig. 45, B.)

One small broken biface of poor quality flint may not have been finished. The shape could indicate the base of a Gary point. Weight is 2.0 grams.

Projectile Point: (1) (Fig. 45, B.)

One complete flint point of the Palmillas type is included. The base is straight, unmodified. Weight is 12.1 grams.

Flakes and Chips:

The collection includes 61 flakes and chips that weigh 74 grams. Seven are silicified wood and the others are flint. Most are patinated. Fifteen are larger than 15 mm.

Use scars are found on 17 (28%). Thirteen have been used for cutting. One each has a straight and a concave retouched edge. Two are lipped.

A tabulation of the characteristics of the flakes and chips is shown in Table 24.

DISCUSSION:

Apparently, this site was occupied briefly during the Archaic period. During a later period, another group lived nearby. There is nothing to suggest that these occupations were continuous or associated with each other in any way.

41 HR 292 and 41 HR 280

| Size | Material | Utilized | | | | Unutilized | | | | Totals | | | |
|-------------|----------|----------|----|----|-------|------------|----|----|-------|--------|----|----|-------|
| | | P. | S. | I. | total | P. | S. | I. | total | P. | S. | I. | total |
| 0 to 10mm. | flint | | 1 | 2 | 3 | | | 14 | 14 | | 1 | 16 | 17 |
| | sil.wood | | | 1 | 1 | | | 2 | 2 | | | 3 | 3 |
| | total | | 1 | 3 | 4 | | | 16 | 16 | | 1 | 19 | 20 |
| 10 to 15mm. | flint | | 1 | 2 | 3 | 2 | 6 | 13 | 21 | 2 | 7 | 15 | 24 |
| | sil.wood | | | 1 | 1 | | 1 | | 1 | | 1 | 1 | 2 |
| | total | | 1 | 3 | 4 | 2 | 7 | 13 | 22 | 2 | 8 | 16 | 26 |
| 15 to 20mm. | flint | | | 4 | 4 | | | 2 | 2 | | | 6 | 6 |
| | sil.wood | | | | | | 1 | | 1 | | 1 | | 1 |
| | total | | | 4 | 4 | | 1 | 2 | 3 | | 1 | 6 | 7 |
| 20 to 25mm. | flint | | 3 | 2 | 5 | | 1 | 1 | 2 | | 4 | 3 | 7 |
| | sil.wood | | | | | | 1 | | 1 | | 1 | | 1 |
| | total | | 3 | 2 | 5 | | 2 | 1 | 3 | | 5 | 3 | 8 |
| Totals | | | 5 | 12 | 17 | 2 | 10 | 32 | 44 | 2 | 15 | 44 | 61 |

Table 24

Flakes and Chips (41 HR 292)

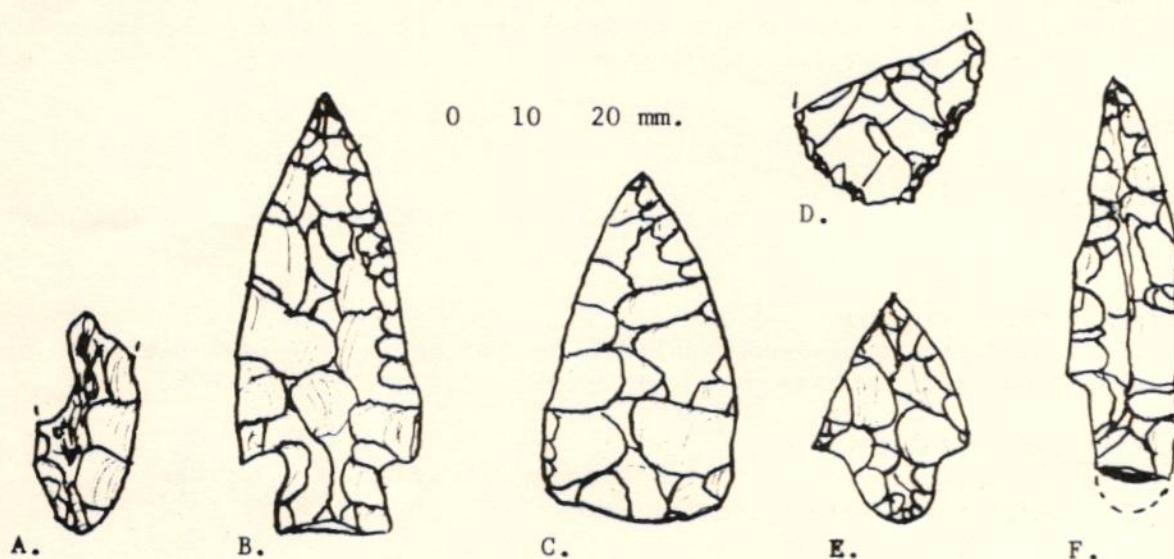


Figure 45

| Size | Material | Utilized | | | | Unutilized | | | | Totals | | | |
|-------------|----------|----------|----|----|-------|------------|----|----|-------|--------|----|----|-------|
| | | P. | S. | I. | total | P. | S. | I. | total | P. | S. | I. | total |
| 0 to 10mm. | flint | | | 1 | 1 | 2 | 1 | 9 | 12 | 2 | 1 | 10 | 13 |
| | sil.wood | | | | | | 1 | 1 | 2 | | 1 | 1 | 2 |
| | total | | | 1 | 1 | 2 | 2 | 10 | 14 | 2 | 2 | 11 | 15 |
| 10 to 15mm. | flint | | 3 | 2 | 5 | 2 | 2 | 6 | 10 | 2 | 5 | 8 | 15 |
| | sil.wood | | | | | | 2 | 1 | 3 | | 2 | 1 | 3 |
| | total | | 3 | 2 | 5 | 2 | 4 | 7 | 13 | 2 | 7 | 9 | 18 |
| 15 to 20mm. | flint | | 1 | 2 | 3 | | | | | | 1 | 2 | 3 |
| 20 to 25mm. | flint | | 3 | 2 | 5 | | 2 | 1 | 3 | | 5 | 3 | 8 |
| Totals | | | 7 | 7 | 14 | 4 | 8 | 18 | 30 | 4 | 15 | 25 | 44 |

Table 25

Flakes and Chips (41 HR 280)

41 HR 280

This site is about 1000 feet upstream of 41 HR 292. The soil is badly disturbed. Artifacts were exposed by erosion at two places on the south bank and at one place on the north bank. The three locations are combined for this report.

BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL:

Several bones of Pleistocene animals were found along the bayou in the area. Probably, they are not associated with the site.

CERAMICS:

The collection includes 9 sherds of pottery vessels. Two are San Jacinto Plain and seven are Goose Creek Plain wares. Total weight is 50 grams.

San Jacinto Plain: (1)

Color, paste and consistency of two small body sherds are typical. Thickness is 5 mm.

Goose Creek Plain: (7)

Color, paste and consistency are typical. Six are body sherds and one is a Type 2 rim. Thickness varies from 4 to 7 mm.

OTHER FIRE-HARDENED PLASTIC MATERIAL:

A few small lumps of fired clay may represent hearths. They are similar to those described in the report on 41 HR 279-A.

LITHICS:

Bifaces: (1) (Fig. 45, D.)

One small, thin, broken biface of red flint was found. No intended use can be determined. Weight is 2.3 grams.

Projectile Points:

Three dart points were found, one each in the three areas. A complete, patinated, Abasolo point (Fig. 45, C.) weighs 8.0 grams. A small flint Gary point (Fig. 45, E.) weighs 2.9 grams. A small, narrow, Wells point has the base broken. The flint point weighs 5.3 grams, (Fig. 45, F.)

Flakes and Chips:

The collection includes 44 flakes and chips that weigh 58 grams. Five are silicified wood and the rest are flint. Most are patinated. Eleven are larger than 15 mm.

Use scars are on 14 (29%). Eleven have been used for cutting and 2 for scraping. One has a straight retouched edge and one has 5 concave notches. One is lipped. A tabulation of the characteristics of the flakes and chips is shown in Table 25.

DISCUSSION:

This site appears to suggest two distinct occupations, none of which was very intense. Archaic and Woodland periods are represented by the material. As in the nearby 41 HR 292, there is nothing to suggest continuity between the periods.

Archaeology, History and the Wallisville Townsite: Professional Neglect in Action

Kenneth L. Brown

Archaeology is considered by many to be the study of past human behavior (Fagan, 1978; Binford, 1962, 1965; Schiffer, 1976). However, archaeologists usually do not observe the behavior directly (Schiffer, 1976). The behavior must be inferred from the collection of material remains (artifacts) which are the result of actual behavior at some point in the past. It has been a tradition within archaeology that this type of research only be conducted on "old" or "prehistoric" sites--that is, sites which were constructed and utilized by peoples who lacked a written literature. If "readable" written sources are available, archaeologists have tended to leave the study of the particular cultural group to historians, unless the group in question was "non-European" or (in the case of Old World archaeologists) "pre-modern European". More recently within the United States, archaeologists have begun to question this belief and have begun to work on historically-known and documented sites (South, 1977, 1979). Unfortunately, this development toward interest in the "recent" past in North America has not been accompanied by a complete shift in professionals views of the past. "Recent past" generally means that period prior to 100 years ago. In fact, Federal law now requires that something be more than 100 years old to qualify as a significant archaeological/historic resource--unless it is a complete building of some relatively unique type (Public Law 96-95 (H.R. 1825): Archaeological Resources Protection Act of 1979). It is also true that, at least in part, this shift has been toward the study of known historic structures--whether or not they were still standing, but preference was given to those which were. Thus, archaeologists and legislators (as a result?) have defined a set time period and a set of circumstances which must be met before a site, or grouping of material remains, is to be considered "important"--that is, until it is considered appropriate for excavation and/or protection. This is despite the fact that more recent sites can yield valuable information on past human activities as well as pre 1880's sites can. Some human behavior is just not considered "past" enough, and we do not need to concern ourselves with it. An interesting attitude to take given the nature of what is being studied and why it is being studied.

The townsite of Wallisville, Texas is one historic period site which has suffered because of the disinterest and bias of archaeologists, historians, and government personnel. In fact, it provides an ideal model of what can happen given professional neglect (and a short lesson in the benefits of a combined approach to study). The town was first settled in the early 1830's, and it served as the county seat of Chambers County until 1909. The town is located on the banks of the Trinity River, and currently Interstate 10 runs immediately north of the main townsite area. At its peak, the town supported some 700 to 750 full-time residents, many of whom were employed at the lumber mills within the town and immediately across the Trinity River from the town. However, the town was also an important link in the travel, trade and general commerce of the north Galveston Bay area, although its importance declined after 1914 and the loss in the lumber market--primarily lumber was being shipped to Germany. In 1968 the Army Corps of Engineers condemned and dismantled/destroyed the town because of their construction of a dam a short distance down stream on the Trinity River. All of the structures then standing on the townsite were either removed or destroyed. Approximately eight city-blocks (nearly one-third of the settled

portion of the town) was barrowed to build a levee and dam access road east of the townsite. This levee was meant to protect the land east of the town from flooding once the dam was put into operation. However, the resulting lake would have periodically flooded the townsite, likely resulting in some damage to the site from wave action.. During the barrowing activities, a small "old" cemetery was destroyed. This destruction was allowed to continue as a result of professional disinterest on the part of both historians and archaeologists. It is perhaps ironic that while the late historic town of Wallisville was being partially destroyed and valuable information lost, several prehistoric and earlier historic (French and Spanish) sites were being investigated and protected. These earlier sites were and are deemed important to an understanding of the history of the area. The townsite was not considered important enough to save.

It may seem that the term "professional disinterest" is an overly strong one, but given the published material on the Wallisville Reservoir area, it is an accurate term, it may even be a mild one (Shafer, 1966; Tunnel and Ambler, 1967; Ambler, 1970; Gilmore, 1974; Aten, 1976). These reports all but fail to note any later historic settlements (post-Spanish/early Anglo) within the Wallisville Lake impact area, yet a fairly sizable number have since been located and described (Fox, 1980). The initial research in the impact area (at least based on the public reports) did not include the systematic gathering of oral histories or early Anglo documents. This, again, was despite the discovery, testing and protection of 2 Spanish and French colonial sites. It was not until the late 1970's--almost 10 years after professional archaeologists cleared the way for the destruction of Wallisville--that an attempt was made to save the site from further destruction. This attempt was begun and headed by local residents who did realize the value of the site for their history (at least for the Courthouse Square portion of the townsite). It will be primarily through the efforts of these local residents--under the auspices of the Chambers County Historical Commission--that the site may ultimately be saved from further destruction. It was through the efforts of this group and their 2 consulting archaeologists (1 of whom was an "amateur"). that a study of the area's historic period resources was funded by the Army Corps of Engineers (Fox, 1980).

This brief history of the Wallisville townsite was written to highlight the following discussion of the problems with the professional response to historic period resources--both archaeologists and historians, and the concluding brief discussion of the professional responsibilities toward historic resources (even if they are less than the somehow magical 100 years old). Comparing what is known of the prehistoric and early historic material in the area and the Wallisville townsite, the only major differences that can be identified are: the time period of human occupation and the availability of similar sites. The prehistoric and early historic sites are simply older than the Wallisville townsite--they are sufficiently prior to the 100 year time boundary to make them interesting to archaeologists, historians rarely conduct fieldwork anyway. Further, there are a large number of late 19th and early 20th century towns known in North America; many of which are still being occupied today. The early historic French and Spanish sites are fewer in number and are no longer being produced. Prehistoric sites in the area are numerous, but their importance lies more in the fact that they show long-term adaptation to the area under more "primitive" systems. Secondly, the prehistoric sites are older, thus capturing the attention of archaeologists working under the traditional belief system. However, neither time of occupation nor the number of available sites occupied by people employing a different technological system is sufficient reason for the neglect of the

Wallisville townsite. In fact, from a professional viewpoint, possibly the most important site within the Wallisville Reservoir area is the townsite of Wallisville and adjacent lumber mill.

The townsite represents the remains of some 140 years of human adaptation to and exploitation of the Wallisville area. The French and the Spanish contact period sites lasted only a combined total of 16 years and represent little adaptation to the local environment. The prehistoric sites clearly demonstrate a very long-term attempt at adaptation to the area. Archaeologists have recognized the importance of the prehistoric sites and the uniqueness of the early French and Spanish sites and have attempted to study and protect them. Wallisville and the later historic sites have been systemtically neglected--something for which historians of Texas must share an equal portion of the blame with archaeologists. However, Wallisville represents an attempt--successful until the Army Corps of Engineers' eviction--at adaptation to the same environmental system by people with a different technology, but with the same ultimate goal of survival. Our knowledge of human behavior can only be increased by archaeologically and historically investigating the behavior of the "modern" humans who occupied Wallisville and survived, in the same manner that we would investigate the early historic and prehistoric sites. The only 2 differences between the sites are age of occupation and the technology employed for survival. The first is unimportant. The second is vitally important in terms of what it can add to our knowledge of human behavior and behavioral adaptation--one of the main reasons for archaeology and history in the first place.

It is true that many other 19th and 20th century towns are known, many (if not most) are currently occupied. What is important about the Wallisville townsite in this regard is precisely that it is not occupied any longer. Today it is almost exactly like the prehistoric and early historic sites around it. All of these sites are known from distributions of artifacts, not from standing structures. Archaeological studies of the Wallisville townsite would not be hampered by the presence of standing and/or occupied structures. Thus, Wallisville is one of the very few sites of its time period (particularly in this area of Texas) that would be ideal for archaeological studies, precisely because the data would be identical to that recovered from the "traditional" types of sites investigated by archaeologists.

In this context, the value of the Wallisville townsite exceeds that of the other, earlier sites within the immediate vicinity. The townsite has a rich verbal, written, and photographic record that the others lack. As a result of this, from an archaeological point of view and an historical point of view, a more accurate record can be gathered about human behavior from this townsite than from the earlier sites within the area. The presence of the historical documentation on the site and the activities which took place there should not be employed to downgrade the importance of the material remains located on the site. A combination of the 2 methodologies (history and archaeology) provides information and detail not otherwise obtainable using only one of them. Thus, in a sense, the possibility of detailed, accurate research and historical reconstruction of Wallisville is higher than for the prehistoric and early historic sites which have already--and for good reason--been defined as valuable. The townsite also provides an ideal opportunity to test the basic assumption made by archaeologists: that material remains can be employed to reconstruct past human behavior patterns. Without this assumption, archaeologists would be little

more than "treasure-hunters". However, this assumption remains largely untested. The tremendous variety of historic documentation which exists on the townsites would permit the testing of this basic assumption.

The Wallisville townsites represent an unfortunate case where the mental set of the archaeologists and the "research" methodology of the historians has contributed to the partial destruction of important historic resources. In this case, historians must take some of the blame, since they did not attempt to intervene. It is important that historians (who do not actively pursue history outside of documents and oral accounts) and archaeologists (who do not actively pursue history if it is too recent) begin to bridge the artificial methodological gaps between the disciplines. This is important from the standpoint of simply avoiding future Wallisvilles. However, it is equally important that by the combination of effort both professional groups will gain a great deal of knowledge about the past and about their own abilities as disciplines. Historians deal with people's perceptions of events, archaeologists deal with the actual remains of those events and with items not normally considered by historians (i.e., the patterned day to day behavior of individuals). A combination of methodologies should lead to a much fuller knowledge, if not understanding, of the past behavior of humans. Artificial age distinctions are not a sufficient criterion for rationalizing the loss of information that non-combination/co-operation can cause. The Wallisville townsites represent a "classic" case of information lost due to professional neglect and shortsightedness.

When the scientific and historical value of the Wallisville townsites is combined with the high level of public interest in the area, one must ask: Why is the Wallisville townsites considered to be unimportant? In a broader perspective, one can ask what is to be gained from ignoring the value of historic sites and archaeological methods? The answer to this last question may lead to the avoidance of the destruction of irreplaceable evidence of past human behavior and adaptation. Without combining methodologies recent yesterdays are truly gone.

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THOMAS JEFFERSON CHAMBERS

by Villa Mae Williams

Foreword

Preliminary archeological surveys and excavations were made in 1978 of the grounds and home (Chambersea) of Thomas Jefferson Chambers in Anahuac, Chambers County, Texas. This work was sponsored by the Chambers County Historical Commission and directed by William Louis Fullen. Various groups and individuals participated in the activities including many members of the Houston Archeological Society.

"Chambersea" has recently been added to the National Register.

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Any discussion of Gen. Thomas Jefferson Chambers has to be controversial, because his life was controversial. Perhaps no other Texas did more to defend Texas from her enemies than Gen. Chambers, and perhaps no other person received so little consideration for his efforts. True, he received land, but acclaim, prestige, friends, political position eluded him. Titles to his lands were attacked and eventually these titles failed.

Proof of his loyalty to his beloved Texas may be found in his prolific writings, and in the records of his activities, spread across the pages of Texas history. He was a bedeviled man, always feeling that he was persecuted by his enemies, of which he had many. He seemed to have had no trusted friends, in fact, there is no record that he had many friends. He suffered greatly from complaints of digestion, probably we would now call it "nervous stomach".

A letter from Dr. G. M. Stone in Galveston to Gen. Chambers cautions him concerning his health.

March 1834

"Col. Chambers Dear Sir: -- You are advised to attend particularly to the quality & quantity of your diet, selecting such articles as you have found from experience to be of easy digestion in your own system & in such quantities only as may be sufficient to give you support under the exercise which the circumstances of your life permits you to enjoy. When you find yourself unable from business to indulge more freely in exercise, then more nutritious diet & in larger quantities may be taken, but when more confined, more simple food & less in quantity will be required..... Without the assistance of exercise & relaxation of the mind, we are not to expect the benefits which usually flow from the administration of medicine...."

A note written to Capt. T. W. Chambers, who was a nephew of Gen. Chambers and who assisted him in attending his affairs asks him to send, among other supplies, to Round Point, "one vial of Barteman's drops" an early medication for gastric disturbances. (1843)

Thomas Jefferson Chambers was born April 3, 1802 in Orange County, Virginia, the youngest child of Thomas and Mary Gore Chambers. His father died when he was 13 years of age and his mother moved to Kentucky to be

near her people. Thomas Jefferson worked to support himself, studied law and longed to be a soldier. He taught school to help with his expenses, graduated and was admitted to the bar of Kentucky and later to the bar of Alabama.

Deciding to seek his fortune, he left his home and traveled to Mexico City, where for three years he taught and studied Mexican law, learning to speak the Mexican language fluently, and became a Mexican Citizen. He was admitted to the Mexican Bar in 1829. He became friendly with influential Mexicans and was appointed Surveyor General of Coahuila and Texas by Victor Blanco, the vice governor.

His tact and diplomacy in handling disputes, particularly in land matters, between Mexico and other countries, and his unquestioned loyalty to Mexico made him the logical man for the position of Superior Judge of Texas and he was later appointed to this job on June 16, 1845, in which job he served about a year and a half. He reorganized the jury laws of the State of Texas which still forms the foundation of practice in the courts of our state.

Before 1836 Judge Chambers had received grants from Mexico for more than 30 leagues of land in payment of his salary and at the time of the outbreak of the Texas Revolution he was one of the largest landowners in Texas. When Texas declared her independence, he had already joined the Texans and had tendered loans to their cause in January of the same year.

He received a commission as major general in the Texas army and went to Kentucky for the purpose of raising a division of troops to aid Texas in her fight with Mexico. He borrowed money on his 30 leagues of land and raised and equipped a reserve army of 1915 men, had 6 small iron cannon cast at Pittsburg and then sent the men and guns down the Mississippi to New Orleans to be re-shipped to Texas. They landed at Matagorda after the Battle of San Jacinto had been fought and won and Texas was free. Some of the men remained and joined the various colonies, and 2 of the 6 guns now stand at the entrance to the Capitol building at Austin, mute witnesses to the patriotic devotion he felt for his country. Later he was tendered appointment of Secretary of War by President Houston, but he declined to serve with Houston because of personal dislike.

He retired from public life and in 1840 established himself at Round Point in Liberty County, now Chambers County, approximately 1-1/2 miles south of the town of Anahuac. He spent some time in the east trying to sell some land to raise funds to replenish his assets and in the spring of 1843 he returned from the United States to find that his home at Round Point had been taken over by an usurper. A lawsuit ensued, but Chambers, embittered, took matters into his own hand and shot and killed John O'Brien, in the home at Round Point. Records are not available on the outcome of a trial because of this shooting incident but Chambers evidently cleared his name.

General Chambers was married on November 20, 1851 to Miss Abigail Chubb, daughter of Col. Thomas Chubb, who was harbormaster of Galveston and brought his bride to Chambersea. He was assassinated in his home, which is still standing, on March 15, 1865, while he was at home recovering from wounds suffered in the War. The assassin was never identified, and his identity remains a mystery until this day.

The home is a pine and cypress two story dwelling built along the lines of Greek Revival about 1845. It has deep overhanging eaves and latticed galleries which suggest a Louisiana influence. It has recently been placed on the National Register of Historic Places. A unique feature is the star window on the west end of the building in the attic, which is said to have been made originally of deeply stained glass. Another unusual feature is the graceful, spiral exterior stairway rising from the first floor porch to the second floor porch. It is the only access to the upstairs part of the home. Early photographs show that at one time the house was twice its present size. It has not been determined when the east wing was removed, but it is known that during the blockade of Galveston during the Civil War a niece of Gen. Chambers, Mrs. Hamilton Stewart of Galveston, occupied that wing.

It is probable that more archeology will be done on the grounds surrounding the home in the near future to determine whether other buildings were present at the time Gen. Chambers lived there.

As a matter of new interest, a gun has recently been located which is said to be the gun which was used in the assassination. The Chambers County Historical Commission has evidence that it probably is the gun and plans to have it examined by experts to document this belief. The gun is a double-barrelled muzzle loading shotgun of 12 gauge, English made and appears to be of the 1865 period. This corroborates the statement made in his obituary in THE GALVESTON DAILY NEWS, Friday April 14, 1865.

Gen. T. J. Chambers

"This old and distinguished citizen of Texas was assassinated in his bed-room of his residence in Chambers County on the night of 15th of March, in the presence of his wife and children, by being shot in the right side of his face and head with twenty-nine shot of different sizes. He died instantly."

Note:

The Chambers County Historical Commission has an outstanding collection of material on the life of Gen. Thomas Jefferson Chambers. The Commission files are open to researchers.

A draft report entitled "Archeological Exploration of Texas Archeological Landmark 41CH227, The General Thomas Jefferson Chambers Homesite, Anahuac, Chambers County, Texas has been submitted to the Chambers County Historical Commission by Lou Fullen. The field work was conducted in November and December 1978 with the assistance of the Houston Archeological Society, Chambers County Heritage Society, Chambers County Historical Commission, Junior Historians of Barber's Hill School and others.

EXCAVATIONS AT SITE 41WH2, WHARTON CO., TEXAS

L. W. Patterson

This is a brief report on excavations made by members of the Houston Archeological Society at site 41WH2 in Wharton County on May 26, 1980. Participants included: Dave Atherton, Richard Gregg, Joe Hudgins, Bill Hudgins, Mike Johnston, Sheldon Kindall, Bernard Naman, and Lee Patterson.

A large group of pre-ceramic dart point types has been found by Joe Hudgins during surface collecting on this site. Point types span the Late Paleo to Late Archaic time periods (Patterson and Hudgins, HAS Newsletter 66:34-39). Since the data base is small regarding the exact occupation sequence on the upper Texas coast during this overall early time period, excavations were made on site 41WH2 in an attempt to obtain more data on the chronological sequence of this region.

Four test pits of one meter square size were made here, with excavations made at arbitrary 10 cm levels. All dirt was processed through $\frac{1}{4}$ inch mesh screens. All materials were collected that did not pass through this screen size.

This site is divided by an area of very deep erosion. Most of the projectile points have been found on an eroded bank at the edge of the disturbed area. Excavations were made on the high ground above this bank, which is a high terrace on the edge of the West Bernard River. There are no obvious surface features on the area selected, and this area is covered by deep grass. It is presently used as an agricultural field.

Excavation results were rather meager. A few flint flakes were found at each test level down to 50 cm, where sterile clay was encountered. Iron nails and pieces of glass were found down to 30 cm, and it seems likely that past plowing has disturbed the soil to this depth. A few fired clayballs were found throughout the fill.

Lithic materials found during these tests appear to be alluvial cherts common to the Colorado River drainage. Several flakes had indications of heat treating. A few rough-surfaced chert pebbles may have been used as abrading tools. A retouched microblade, 9.4 mm wide, was found at the 0 to 10 cm level. A flake retouched as a unifacial scraper was found at approximately 30 cm depth.

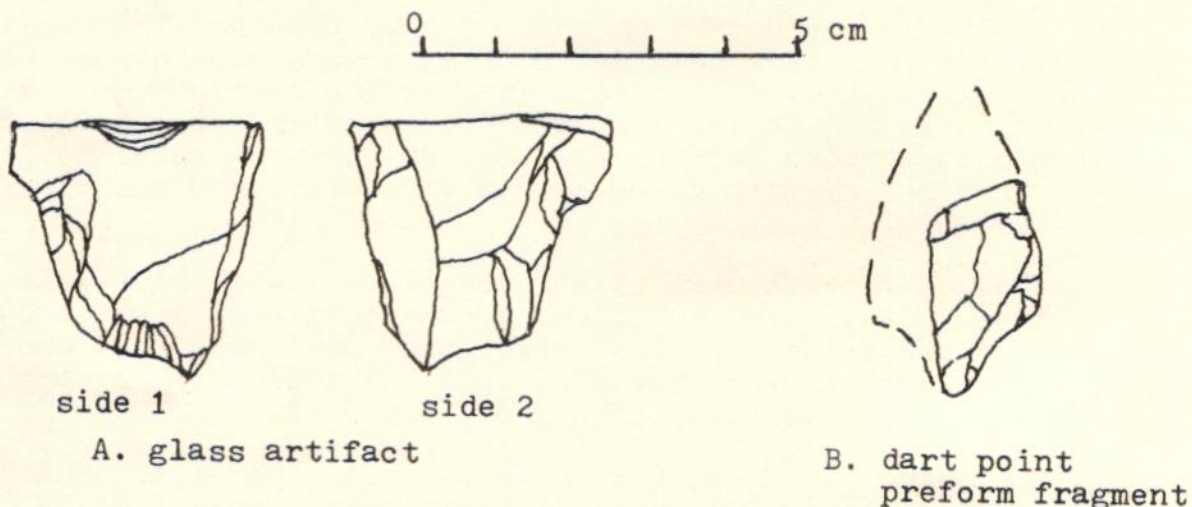
A few diagnostic artifacts were found that give additional information on the nature of this site. Artifacts previously found here indicate only pre-ceramic occupations. It now appears that this site has had later occupations, also. One potsherd was found in the 10 to 20 cm level which fits the description of Conway Plain, with coarse sand tempering. A glass artifact was found on the surface that indicates Indian occupation in historic time. This is shown in Figure 1A. It is made from white glass and seems to be a piece that has been used as a flake core and as a scraper. A fragment of a contracting stem dart point preform was found at the 30 to 40 cm level (Figure 1B).

While it was not possible to establish a meaningful stratigraphic occupation sequence with these excavations, there are other known sites in this general area where significant results might be obtained in the future. The availability of archeological sites in this area is due to the ongoing survey work being done by Joe Hudgins.

The long overall time period for occupations at this site, as indicated by current data, is worth noting. The earliest projectile point type here is Plainview, which is a Paleoindian type of before 5,000 BC. The glass artifact could indicate Indians occupations as late as the early 1800's. It appears that this site has been used for well over 7,000 years.

Figure 1

SITE 41WH2 ARTIFACTS



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Texas Archeological Society - Annual Meeting

The 51st TAS Annual Meeting will be held in Austin, Texas, October 31 - November 1 and 2, 1980. The meeting will be hosted by the Travis County Archeological Society. Headquarters will be Quality Inn South, I35 at Ontorf Exit.

A call for papers has been issued and the deadline is September 15. Send abstracts of papers to:

Elton Prewitt, 7530 North Lamar, Suite 200, Austin, Texas 78752

3R'S - Rights, Responsibilities and Roles

Alan Skinner

To whom is archaeology relevant? Who really cares about archaeology?

Amateur archaeologists as a body are probably those individuals most concerned about archaeology and for whom archaeology is most relevant. But isn't the public interested? and aren't professional archaeologists the ones who should be most concerned about archaeology's?

Yes, the public is interested when they are regularly informed but in America, they do not yet have a feeling for heritage such as we see in Europe or the Middle East. Moreover the public has been treated as uneducated children who are interested at best in only the rare spectacular find. This form of "benign neglect" is prominent because the great unwashed public is considered to be a bother if it comes to really educating them but on the other hand professional archaeologists recognize that the public needs at least to believe that they are important.

On the other hand don't archaeologists care? Sure they do! They care about sharp Marshalltown trowels, color infrared photographs, vertical stratigraphy, an exotic self image and having sufficient support to work here or there while they do their own research. They also care about vandals who loot sites and about the public that for some reason considers them recorders of Stone Age monsters rather than students of man's heritage.

Neither of these characterizations is fair but they serve to present a picture of this bimodal or polarized world into which the serious Amateur Archaeologist is thrust. What all this leads to is my belief that the Amateur Archaeologist is at present and probably will always be the main salvation of Texas archaeology. My concern is not altogether new, as it has been discussed by such recognized writers as Charles McGimsey, Lewis Binford and Fred Plog plus yours truly who say that if archaeologists don't make archaeology relevant to the public then the public is likely to discover that it can do without archaeology (and archaeologists). In this light then I will discuss the various roles of the Amateur Archaeologist. It must be remembered that the role is made up of two parts: rights and responsibilities. We cannot have one without the other. Each role can be ranked on a scale of 1 to 10 for each person and 10 is probably never achieved but it should be aspired to. Roles are like the scriptural gifts, not everyone is prepared for all roles but we need all roles to do an adequate job. If we don't have people filling all the roles in our group, then we need to recognize this so we do not go beyond our limits.

1) Fieldwork - site survey and excavation is the most common. I prefer to see nondestructive site surveys which solve archaeological problem(s) and don't result in the collection of large amounts of material other than written records and pictures. This means no curation hassle, however see Butler 1979 for an argument against nondestructive surveys. Survey work requires a commitment and love of outdoors and is good for the novice because the survey could be redone later when more knowledge is acquired and the archaeology hasn't been destroyed.

On the other hand, excavation allows familiarity with one locality, especially over several seasons if doing weekend work. This is likely to take a long period of time and requires commitment. You need to follow up

with a written report and you may have a curation problem (garages just won't do and museums will tend to want money to curate artifacts forever which is their responsibility).

This is the glamour of archaeology but also is the activity for which more amateur groups are criticized because it is destructive and upon occasion is dropped in midstream or is poorly done using mid 1960's techniques. We must realize that there is more to a dig than a pick and shovel and that to extract the maximum amount of information from a site, professional feedback or feedback from outside specialists may be required.

2) Analysis, report writing is the second role and usually takes 2 to 3 times the amount of time to complete. It may require money and effort to which people are frequently less enamored with because it isn't glamorous. This is a follow up to #1 or it could be a piggy back for someone else who asks you to do something because of your expertise.

If you are going to dig or survey, you need to finish. Not only will this provide a certain amount of feedback in the long run but otherwise you become a vandal rather than an amateur. The report is the responsibility while digging, I guess, is a right, although a limited one.

My recommendation here is SPECIALIZE, for eg. the late R. K. Harris did beads, J. C. Blaine does gun parts, and Lee Patterson does lithics - although I don't always agree with his interpretations. A person could be a pottery, bone or mussel, ceramic or glass specialist. There are lots of tasks and we need all of them filled. By the way you might be an editor.

Finally then if we dig or record we need to file a report with TAS, or TARL or Rice but we do not have the right to dig a site in the name of archaeology and then write it off because we are amateurs.

3) A separate but integral part of archaeological investigations is research that deals with previous land use and the history of a tract of land. This is the third role which some can and do handle very well. On a local basis this requires local contacts, interviews, ability to evaluate county or city land records, etc. This is time consuming and tedious but pays off in almost all cases with a better understanding of what happened here before the archaeologists "discovered" or actually "rediscovered" a tract of land. This could also lead to amateur/collector contacts (see Skinner 1978). Generally this should be done before field work begins because it provides feedback for fieldwork to consider in planning.

4) In Austin all projects are "reviewed" at one level or another but frequently the reviewers cannot check projects out on the ground. This is where we come in as the "maginot" or "dew line" watching for trespassers. On a local level it is the amateur who is concerned about the destruction of archaeological sites and who is in the best position to wave a flag which says "has archaeology been considered?"

Such flags may go unheeded or may be seen by some as unnecessary impediments but in general people are interested in the past and will respond favorably to your concerned questioning. Calls are generally more effective at the person to person level but they should be followed up with a letter because calls aren't always recorded and it is harder to ignore a letter.

5) Public relations has been and always will be important. Not all of us are prepared to talk to the PTA, the Rotary, or a 3rd grade class but probably each of us can deal with at least one of these groups and we should have or take the opportunity to do so. The public needs to see what archaeology is all about and moreover needs to know that there is some in their back yards.

If we spread these duties, or rather opportunities, around among group members then it isn't going to be too much of a chore. We don't want it to fall on one person because they will get burned out and miss the rejuvenation of doing other things and being fed by the fellowship of friends. As you well know we have slide shows, film strips on Texas and here is also a book designed especially for middle grades and published by the Steck-Vaughn Company in Austin.

There are a lot more amateur archaeologists than professionals. We need to get our message to the public and that requires time. Last spring in Palo Pinto County I must have talked to more than 30 groups, it really cut into my time and kept me away from my field responsibilities. While I reached a wide group of people in that area it was a tiring experience and it could easily burn you out if that is all you do.

This may also include informing people about projects and their needs, people will frequently help if they learn of a need with which they can help.

6) Lobby for legislation is an important role both for the present and the future. The best example of this is latest TAS Bulletin where Jim Word described the creation of the position of State Archeologist.

We have a highway salvage archaeology in Texas because of amateur archaeologists and also we have a State Antiquities law in part due to TAS support.

7) Devils advocate is the last but not the least of the roles.

Without a vested interest in becoming a professional, you are in a position to ask Why this? and Why that? and to help to clarify issues and further the advancement of archaeology. Such a role requires either a certain amount of knowledge or for some "true naivete." In either case the proverbial "Why?" asking person helps to insure that we are not swept up in a freight train mentality which says Yes. Yes. Yes. Of course.

I have attempted to provide a broad brush perspective of the 3 R's of Rights, Responsibilities and Roles. Each role entails certain rights like the right to dig or survey and the right to talk to the Rotary but it also required the responsibility of finishing digs, analyses and a final report and the responsibility to be up to date with archaeology (i.e., informed) so that you are telling it to the Rotary like it is. The 3 R's then go together and form the place of the Amateur Archaeologist in American Archaeology.

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A.R.D.

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Chairman - Texas Anderson
 807 Glenchester
 Houston, Texas 77079 - 465-4043

Sec.-Treas. - Jean McGinty
 Rt. 2, Box 617
 Dayton, Texas 77535 - 576-2378

Directors - Richard Gregg
 Bill McClure
 Sheldon Kindall

Editor - Alan R. Duke
 1706 Oaks Drive
 Pasadena, Texas - 472-2954

Contributors - Hand and Associates - Employment Benefit Consultants
 and Actuaries

R.J.S. Development, Inc.
 Mel Anderson Communications
 Dudley R. Dobie, Jr.